

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0470

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/SNAR, PK
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: A. STATE 00981; B. ISLAMABAD 00027

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TALKING POINTS PAPER LEFT WITH
GEN ZIA ON DECEMBER 30 (REF B). IN PRESENTING PAPER,
AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR GOP COOPERATION,
ESPECIALLY WITH PNCB AND ITS CHAIRMAN RAUF ALLI.
AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED GOP'S SUCCESSES IN INTERDICTING
SOME OF NARCOTIS ENTERING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC, BUT
EMPHASIZED MAGNITUDE OF TASK AHEAD IN FURTHER INTERDICTION
AND CONTROL OF DOMESTIC OPIUM PRODUCTION.

2. QUOTE.-- THE MOST IMMEDIATELY PRESSING NARCOTICS
CONTROL PROBLEM IS THE EXISTENCE OF AT LEAST THREE ILLEGAL
MORPHINE-PRODUCING LABORATORIES IN THE TRIBAL AREAS OF
THE NWFP. THESE LABS, LOCATED CLOSE TO PESHAWAR,
HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED HEROIN WHICH IS ENTERING
INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC.

--BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THE TRIBAL
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AREAS, PNCB AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE
UNABLE TO MOVE AGAINST THESE LABS AND THEIR OPERATORS
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY. IN
A SIMILAR SITUATION IN 1976, AMBASSADOR BYRAODE APPROACHED
THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER WHO ORDERED A SUCCESSFUL RAID
AGAINST THE LABORATORIES IN THE TRIBAL AREAS. IT IS OUR
HOPE THAT THE MLA WILL TAKE EQUALLY STRONG ACTION

AGAINST THESE NEW LABORATORIES. URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THE LABORATORIES WILL SHORTLY COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A SIZEABLE QUANTITY OF HEROIN.

-- BEYOND THIS THERE IS A LONGER TERM NEED TO CONTROL ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN PAKISTAN.

-- WITH EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL OPERATIONS GOING ON IN MEXICO AND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ELEMENT WILL BE FORCED TO LOOK AT THE PAK-AFGHAN AREA AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF OPIUM.

-- PAKISTAN PRODUCES ABOUT 200 TONS OF OPIUM MAINLY ILLICIT OF WHICH 120 TONS ARE CONSUMED LOCALLY. THE REMAINING 80 TONS ARE ILLEGALLY EXPORTED. MOST OF IT NOW IS THOUGHT TO GO TO IRAN BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT OPIUM AND OPIUM DERIVATIVES, SUCH AS MORPHINE SULPHATE AND MORE RECENTLY SOME HEROIN, FIND THEIR WAY INTO TURKEY AND WESTERN EUROPE.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE GOP SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL AND IS DESIROUS OF IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. SPECIFICALLY THESE STEPS COME TO MIND:
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A. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES FOR OFFENDERS. A DRAFT OF SUCH LEGISLATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CONCERNED MINISTRIES AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND IS READY FOR ENACTMENT. GIVEN THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THIS LEGISLATION, WE HOPE THE MLA WILL FORMALLY CONSIDER ITS EARLY PROMULGATION.

B. INCLUSION OF A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE NWFP IN THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN WHICH WOULD BE AIMED AT GIVING FARMERS IN THAT AREA ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES TO POPPY CULTIVATION SO THAT ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE. WE ARE CONFIDENT INTERNATIONAL DONORS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN SUCH AN EFFORT.

C. OTHER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN HAVE GIVEN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL MANDATE TO HIGH-LEVEL INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES. FOR THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD TO DO A FULLY EFFECTIVE JOB WILL REQUIRE GIVING IT A SIMILAR MANDATE FOR A STRONG ANTI-NARCOTICS

PROGRAM. ONE POSSIBILITY FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS WOULD BE TO PLACE PNCB IN THE CABINET DIVISION, WHICH WOULD GIVE IT A MORE DIRECT LINK TO TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPHASIZE ITS COORDINATING ROLE IN PAKISTAN'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT ASSESSMENT OF THE PNCB CONDUCTED IN EARLY 1977 BY THE PNCB AND THE USG. THE ASSESSMENT CALLS FOR REVISION OF THE EARLIER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND PAKISTAN FOR PROVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. BECAUSE OF A LACK OF BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR PNCB, THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT ADJUSTMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE. END QUOTE. HUMMEL

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